

The Florida Department of Health, together with other state and federal partners, is investigating a cluster of adverse events associated with administration of preservative-free methylprednisolone acetate (MPA) compounded by Main Street Family Pharmacy, LLC, which is located in Newbern, Tennessee.

To date, 24 cases have been confirmed nationally, with 13 of those cases in Florida. So far, all 24 patients have presented with subcutaneous abscesses.

Preliminary test results from FDA suggest that the MPA product was contaminated with both bacteria and fungi.

On May 28, 2013, Main Street announced a voluntary nationwide recall of all lots of all sterile products compounded by the pharmacy. The compounded products that are subject to the recall are those products with a use by date on or before November 20, 2013 .

This outbreak occurred less than a year after preservative-free MPA compounded at New England Compounding Center (NECC) was implicated in an outbreak of fungal meningitis. The NECC outbreak is still ongoing with 745 cases and 58 deaths reported as of June 3, 2013.

The Florida Department of Health would like to remind all physicians, nurses and other health care practitioners that individual containers of injectable compounded or any other preservative-free medicine are intended for single-patient use only. Only multi dose vials with preservative should be used as a common source of supply for multiple patients. Compounded preservative-free products sometimes sold in vials containing more than one dose may not be clearly labeled to indicate that they are for single-patient use only.

All health care providers are required to report clusters of cases and outbreak of disease to the Florida Department of Health per Florida Administrative Code Chapter 64D-3. For more instructions on disease reporting please visit http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/epi/Acute/reporting_HP.html

Florida Department of Health will continue to work closely with the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the health departments in affected states to monitor and to evaluate this situation. We will provide more information as it becomes available.

For the Florida Department of Health's most updated information visit <http://newsroom.doh.state.fl.us/>